

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting packets, the method comprising:

receiving a first packet;

transmitting a portion of the received first packet;

receiving a second packet;

upon receiving the second packet,

stopping the transmitting of the first packet so that not all of the first packet
has been transmitted;

transmitting a preempt indicator;

transmitting the second packet; and

upon completion of transmitting the second packet,

transmitting a continue indicator; and

transmitting the portion of the first packet that has not yet been
transmitted;

wherein the packets include in-band symbols and the indicators include one or more
out-of-band symbols.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitted indicators are primitives.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band symbols are not transition optimized.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first packet is a data packet and the second packet is a control packet.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second packets are transmitted through the same communications link.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting of the second packet is preempted so that a third packet can be transmitted.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first packet includes a header that is transmitted only once.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving packets, the method comprising:
receiving a first portion of symbols of a first packet;
receiving a preempt indicator indicating that a second packet of symbols is to be received;
receiving the second packet of symbols;
receiving a continue indicator indicating that a second portion of symbols of the first packet is to be received; and
receiving the second portion of symbols of the first packet;
wherein the symbols of the packets include in-band symbols and the indicators include one or more out-of-band symbols.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the received indicators are primitives.
11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 944 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band symbols are not transition optimized.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the first packet is a data packet and the second packet is a control packet.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the first and second packets are received via the same communications link.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the receiving of the second packet is preempted so that a third packet can be received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the first packet includes a header that is received only once.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting packets via a communications link, the method comprising:

transmitting a first portion of a first packet;

transmitting a preempt indicator indicating that a second packet is to be transmitted;

transmitting the second packet;

transmitting a continue indicator indicating that a second portion of the first packet is to be transmitted; and

transmitting the second portion of the first packet

wherein the first and second packets and the preempt and continue indicators are transmitted via the same communications link and wherein further the packets include in-band symbols and the indicators include one or more out-of-band symbols.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the indicators are primitives.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1749 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band symbols are not transition optimized.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the first packet is a data packet and the second packet is a control packet.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the transmitting of the second packet is preempted so that a third packet can be transmitted.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the first packet includes a header that is transmitted only once.

24. (Currently Amended) A communications device for transmitting packets via a communications link, comprising:

a transmission component that transmits a first packet; and

a preemption component that signals the transmission component to stop transmitting the first packet, transmits a preempt indicator indicating that a second packet is to be transmitted, transmits the second packet, and signals the transmission component to continue transmitting the first packet;

wherein packets include in-band symbols and the indicators include one or more out-of-band symbols.

25. (Original) The communications device of claim 24 wherein the indicators are primitives.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The communications device of claim 2426 wherein the in-band symbols are transition optimized and the out-of-band symbols are not transition optimized.

28. (Original) The communications device of claim 24 wherein the first packet is a data packet and the second packet is a control packet.

29. (Original) The communications device of claim 24 wherein the transmitting of the second packet is preempted so that a third packet can be transmitted.

30. (Original) The communications device of claim 24 wherein the first packet includes a header that is transmitted only once.